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Dated: 6/18/03

Signature: Judy Bridgewater
(Judy Bridgewater)

Docket No.: 313632000501

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Wilhelmus E. HENNINK, et al.

Application No.: 10/020,627

Filed: December 6, 2001

For: HYDROLYSABLE HYDROGELS FOR
CONTROLLED RELEASE

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: E. J. Webman

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This submission is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office communication mailed April 18, 2003 (Paper No. 8), setting a time to expire on May 18, 2003. As this amendment is filed on June 18, 2003, a petition for a one month extension of time is included. Accordingly, this response is considered timely filed.

The Office has required species election for crosslinking polymers and polymer backbones. In response to the species election requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 18, 2003 (Paper No. 8), Applicants hereby provisionally elect for search purposes, with traverse, polymer backbones comprised of starch and starch derivatives and crosslinking polymers based on lactic acid in combination with methacrylate.

Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for the present species election and the following claim amendments and remarks are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.